

March 20th is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 20th marks the fifth annual National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a serious health threat to Native communities, and this national health observance recognizes the mounting impact of HIV/AIDS on our country's Native peoples – American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ask that you join in this national effort to raise awareness of the risks of the disease to Native peoples and help them understand the dynamics contributing to those risks.

What Can You Do?

As a provider of healthcare services to Native populations, we ask that you help promote HIV/AIDS prevention and early detection by talking with your patients about the risks of HIV/AIDS and the importance of prevention, and encourage them to get screened for HIV. Your support can help further the efforts to decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among Native people.

Medicare Coverage:

Screenings for HIV are covered by Medicare, for eligible beneficiaries:

- Who are categorized as grade A (strongly recommended) or grade B (recommended) ratings by the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and who meet certain other requirements. (Please refer to the CMS “NCD for Screening for HIV” and the USPSTF “Screening for HIV Recommendation Statement” found listed below for additional details.)
- For both standard and FDA approved HIV rapid screening tests.
- If screening is reasonable and necessary for early detection of HIV and is appropriate for individuals entitled to benefits under Part A or enrolled under Part B.

For More Information:

- CMS National Coverage Determination – [NCD for Screening for HIV](#)
- US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) – [Screening for HIV Recommendation Statement](#)
- Indian Health Service HIV/AIDS Program – <http://www.IHS.gov/MedicalPrograms/HIVAIDS>
- CDC National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – <http://www.CDC.gov/Features/NativeHIVAIDS>
- National Native American AIDS Prevention Center – <http://www.NNAAPC.org/news/awareness-day.htm>

We have the ability to make a difference! Thank you for your support.